In the claims:

For the convenience of the Examiner, all claims being examined, whether or not amended, are presented below.

1. (**Original**) A recombinant nucleic acid encoding a CAB domain, comprising a portion of calcineurn A and a portion of calcineurin B, wherein the CAB domain forms a tripartite complex with an FKBP/CAB ligand and an FKBP domain.

2. (**Currently amended**) The recombinant nucleic acid of claim 1 wherein the calcineurin A portion of the CAB domain comprises a peptide sequence selected from any of the following peptide sequences: residues 12-394 of human calcineurin A, residues 12-370 of human calcineurin A or residues 340-394 of human calcineurin A (with reference to the peptide sequence provided in SEQ ID NO: 33 ~~encoded by accession number M29550~~).

3. (**Currently amended**) The recombinant nucleic acid of claim 1 wherein the calcineurin B portion of the CAB domain comprises residues 3-170 of human calcineurin B (with reference to the peptide sequence provided in SEQ ID NO: 35 ~~encoded by accession number M30773~~).

4. (**Original**) The recombinant nucleic acid of claim 1, 2, or 3 comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding a calcineurin A and/or calcineurin B peptide sequence which differs from a naturally occurring calcineurin peptide sequence by up to ten amino acid substitutions, deletions or insertions.

5. (**Original**) A recombinant nucleic acid encoding a fusion protein comprising at least one CAB domain of claim 1 and at least one additional domain that is heterologous thereto.

6. (**Original**) The recombinant nucleic acid of claim 5 wherein the heterologous domain is selected from the group comprising a DNA binding domain, a transcription regulatory domain, a cellular localizing domain and a signaling domain.

7. (**Original**) The recombinant nucleic acid of claim 6 wherein the heterologous domain is or is derived from a lexA, GAL4 or composite DNA binding domain.

8. (**Original**) The recombinant nucleic acid of claim 6 wherein the heterologous domain is or is derived from a p65, VP16 or AP domain.

9. (**Original**) The recombinant nucleic acid of claim 6 wherein the heterologous domain is or is derived from a KRAB domain or a ssn-6/TUP-1 domain.

10. (**Original**) The recombinant nucleic acid of claim 6 wherein the heterologous domain is or is derived from an intracellular domain of a cell surface receptor.

11. (**Original**) A recombinant nucleic acid encoding a fusion protein containing one or more CAB domains which form a tripartite complex with an FKBP domain-containing protein and a non naturally occurring FKBP/CAB ligand preferentially over FK506.

12. (**Currently amended**) A nucleic acid composition, comprising a first recombinant nucleic acid of any of ~~claim 5-11 []~~ claims 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 or 11 further comprising a second recombinant nucleic acid encoding a fusion protein comprising at least one FKBP domain and at least one additional domain that is heterologous thereto.

13. (**Original**) A nucleic acid composition of claim 12 wherein the second nucleic acid encodes a fusion protein containing a heterologous domain that is the same or different from the heterologous domain on the first fusion protein.

14. (**Original**) The nucleic acid composition of claim 13 wherein the first fusion protein comprises a CAB domain and a transcription activation domain and the second fusion protein comprises an FKBP domain and a DNA binding domain.

15. (**Original**) The nucleic acid composition of claim 13 wherein the first fusion protein comprises a CAB domain and a DNA binding domain and the second fusion protein comprises an FKBP domain and a transcription activation domain.

16. (**Original**) A nucleic acid composition of claim 12 wherein the first and second fusion proteins form a ligand dependent complex in the presence of ligand, and wherein the complex initiates a detectable biological signal.

17. (**Original**) The nucleic acid composition of claim 16 wherein the biological signal is selected from the group comprising transcription, cell proliferation, cell differentiation, apoptosis.

18. **(Original)** The nucleic acid composition of claim 12 wherein the composition further comprises a target gene construct.

19. **(Cancelled)**

20. **(Original)** A vector comprising a recombinant nucleic acid of any of claim 1-3 or 5-11.

21. **(Original)** A vector comprising a recombinant nucleic acid of claim 4.

22. **(Original)** A vector comprising a nucleic acid composition of claim 12.

23. **(Original)** The vector of claim 20 wherein the vector is a viral vector.

24. **(Original)** A vector of claim 22 wherein the vector is a viral vector.

25. **(Original)** The vector of claim 23 or 24 wherein the viral vector is selected from the group consisting of adenovirus, AAV, herpesvirus, retrovirus, hybrid adenovirus/AAV, poxvirus, lentivirus.

26. **(Original)** A host cell comprising a recombinant nucleic acid of any of claim 1-3 or 5-11.

27. **(Original)** A host cell comprising a nucleic acid composition of claim 12.

28. **(Previously presented)** A host cell of claim 26 which is an isolated cell of human origin.

29. **(Currently amended)** An isolated cell of human origin which comprises a host cell of claim 27 which is ~~an~~ isolated ~~cell~~ and of human origin.

30. **(Currently amended)** A host cell of claim 26 which is encapsulated ex vivo within a biocompatible material.

31. **(Currently amended)** A host cell of claim 27 which is encapsulated ex vivo within a biocompatible material.

32. **(Original)** A non-human animal containing host cells of claim 26.

33. **(Original)** A non-human animal containing host cells of claim 27.

34. **(Original)** A method for producing genetically engineered host cells comprising introducing into the cells a recombinant nucleic acid of any of claims 1-3 or 5-11 under conditions permitting DNA uptake by cells.

35. **(Currently amended)** A method for producing genetically engineered host cells comprising introducing into the cells the nucleic acid composition of claim 12 ~~compositions [] of claim [] 12[]~~ under conditions permitting DNA uptake by cells.

36. **(Original)** The method of claim 34 wherein the nucleic acids are introduced ex vivo.

37. **(Original)** The method of claim 35 wherein the nucleic acids are introduced ex vivo.

38-50. **(Cancelled)**

51. **(Currently amended)** A method for producing genetically engineered host cells comprising introducing into the cells the nucleic acid compositions of any of claims ~~13-18~~ 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, or 18 under conditions permitting DNA uptake by cells.